

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A toy building element with coupling studs (6; 23; 33; 43; 45; 63) and/or skirts (7; 27; 37; 57) that are complementary therewith for interconnection with other toy building elements provided with corresponding coupling studs and/or coupling skirts, the interconnection taking place in the axial direction of the coupling studs and/or coupling skirts, said toy building element comprising a top element (1; 21; 31; 41; 51) and a bottom element (2; 22; 32; 42; 52) that can be interconnected by means of integral coupling means that are releasable exclusively by rotation about an axis (A) in parallel with the axial direction of the coupling studs (6; 23; 33; 43; 45; 53) and/or the coupling skirts (7; 27; 37; 57), characterised in that the toy building element further comprises at least one intermediate element (8; 38; 48; 58), said top element (1; 21; 31; 41; 51) being interconnectable with an upper end of the intermediate element (8; 38; 48; 58), while the bottom element (2; 22; 32; 42; 52) can be interconnected with a lower end of the intermediate element (8; 38; 48; 58).

2. (original) A toy building element according to claim 1, characterised in that the coupling means are a bayonet coupling (10, 12, 15, 16).

3. (original) A toy building means according to claim 1, characterised in that the coupling means are a threaded coupling (25, 29).

4. (currently amended) A toy building element according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterised in that the top element is provided with upwardly projecting coupling studs (6; 23; 33; 43; 53), while the bottom element is provided with coupling skirts (7; 27; 37; 57).

5. (currently amended) A toy building element according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, characterised in that the intermediate element (8; 58) is configured as an upwardly open container with a bottom (11) at its lower end.

6. (original) A toy building element according to claim 5, characterised in that the bottom (11) on the bottom face (5) is provided with downwardly projecting coupling studs (18; 55).